

Roxbury, Oct. 31, 1878.

My dear Fanny:

In my letter to you of yesterday, I stated that, on the whole, I felt like deferring my visit until your convalescence; nevertheless, if you should still desire me to come this week, I would do so, if telegraphed to that effect.

This morning came a letter from Harry, announcing that your fever has abated, and that you are making steady progress, although still very weak. At 11 o'clock came a telegram from Wendell, stating that you would rather prefer my coming now. I surmise that this feeling is largely in reference to my attending the breakfast to be given to Dean Stanley by the Century Club on Saturday; though I wrote you that my non-attendance would be no disappointment to me. Indeed, I have already sent a letter to the Club, expressive of the high estimation in which I hold the Dean, but adding that it was quite

uncertain whether I should be at the breakfast, and that, in case of my absence, my letter must be taken as a substitute for my bodily presence.

But I feel not a little embarrassed by the receipt of Wendell's telegram. I am really not well, my head is heavy and congested, my strength is comparative weakness, my special ailment is more troublesome than usual, and I feel quite "demoralized," partly owing to a catarrhal cold not yet terminated. This has led me to put myself under Doctor Nichols' care, and to-day I commence a trial of his treatment. Under these circumstances I do not think it would be the best time now for me to go on to New York, to say nothing of your own condition, which requires so much quietude and freedom from excitement. Still, "good for nothing" as I am temporarily feeling, I would not and could not keep away from you, if my presence would afford you any comfort, or be of service in connection with the children.

As for being at the Stanley breakfast, I abandon the idea. I shall wait to hear further from Harry or Wendell before deciding what to do; though, "other things being equal," feeling it best for me to remain at home for the present. But not if you want me.

There is another reason why I could wish to defer my visit. I am both expected and requested to draw up a testimonial of affection and respect to the memory of George Thompson, and of sympathy to his children, to be signed by a select number of abolitionists, and transmitted to the family. That will require some days to see it consummated. G. T.'s death has also increased the burden of my correspondence both at home and abroad.

Now, my darling, it shall be as you may decide. I shall allow nothing but physical debility, preventing locomotion, to keep me from you if you see how I may be of use to you or yours in your present prostration.

Your ever loving Father.

P.S. I very much regret to hear
that Emma is threatened with some disorder
that remains to be developed; and I fear it
may prove another case of erysipelas, as that can
be propagated.